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Extract from Statement of
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz,
Chief of Naval Operations,
U. S. Navy, Before the
President's Air Policy Commission, 12 November, 1947.

I would like also to suggest that your Commission give thought to the importance of intelligence to our national security. The greater the capabilities of our enemies for sudden attack, the more important it becomes that our intelligence agencies and activities be the best that we can devise.

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MR. HOYT: Admiral, I noticed with great interest that you mentioned intelligence. I am sure you will agree with me that in a democracy we have a military establishment in direct ratio to the need for it; in other words, to the potential danger. I would like to ask you if you have been satisfied with our present intelligence. In other words, I would like to know whether you think we know enough about what foreign powers are doing?

ADMIRAL NIMITZ: As you know, Mr. Hoyt, we have recently set up the intelligence agency under the National Security Act of 1947, and that agency is still very young and in process of being formed. I think it is too early to make any estimate of whether that is

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deficient. By the very nature of its subject, no one person, again, would know whether it is effective or not, and I do not think they should know.

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